



The Blurb



Newsletter of The Phil-Mont Mobile Radio Club

62 Years of Public Service, 1949 to 2011

Volume 61 Number 7

www.phil-mont.org

July 2011

According to the United States Flag Code, the Pledge of Allegiance reads:

*I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, and to
the republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible,
with liberty and justice for all.*



*The Stars & Stripes then and now
Have a great 4th!*

We welcomed two new members at the June meeting –

Brandon Szalai, KB3VYD of Philadelphia

Michael Vincent, N3TOX of Norristown

See you on the air!

<p>The Blurb is published monthly by and for the members of The PHIL-MONT MOBILE RADIO CLUB, Inc., whose purpose is to promote Amateur Radio in general, and Mobile Radio in particular. <i>Copying and quoting</i> is permitted with a credit line. We gladly exchange publications with other amateur radio clubs.</p> <p>Requests should be sent to the Editor.</p> <p>Subscriptions are available to non-members for \$12, addressed to the Treasurer.</p> <p>Editor: Rick DeVirgiliis ND3B nd3b@arrl.net 215-908-7225</p> <p>Club Archivist: Gwen Patton NG3P ng3p@arrl.net 610-630-9862</p> <p>Labels and mailing: KB3IV</p> <p>Submissions deadline: All copy must be in the hands of the Editor by the 20th of the previous month.</p>		<p>Directors:</p> <p>W3AOK (11) WA3KIO (11) N3XKE (11) KB2ERL (12) W3STW (12) WU3I (12) ND3B (A)</p>		<p>Contact Phil-Mont: P.O. Box 88 Abington, PA 19001 http://www.phil-mont.org Website: Eric N3QV & Andrew KC2PMW</p> <p>For club information: Contact any club officer, or the repeaters listed below. Address or club directory changes and articles for the membership e-mail list should be sent to: KB3IV</p>	
		<p>Sunday Morning Net Schedules</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 Meter/ 70cm Net..... at 0930L on W3QV repeater • 10-on-10 Net at 1000L 28.393 MHz USB (±QRM) • 75 meter Net at 1020L 3.993 MHz LSB • ARES at 2100L on the W3QV repeater 			
<p>Committees</p> <p>Archives: NG3P Audit: NS3K Blurb folding: KB3IV & N3GLU Directory: KB3IV</p>		<p>DX: N3MT Emerg.Coar: K3HWE Field Day: KE3QB Internet: N3QV & KC2PMW Membership: N3XKE</p>		<p>Net Control: KB3IV Publicity: W3RM Program: Club VP Public Service: KE3QB Refreshments: W3AOK Repeater: W3AOK</p>	
				<p>Scholarship: W3RM Skywarn: WX3PHI Sunshine: N3GLU VE Program: NS3K Welcome: N3UBY Youth: N3MT</p>	
<p align="center">All visitors are welcome!</p> <p>The club meets at 7:30 PM on the <i>second</i> non-holiday Wednesday each month except July and August at Roxborough Memorial Hospital, 5800 Ridge Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19128 Maps and directions are available at www.phil-mont.org.</p>					
<p>License Examinations are held on the fourth non-holiday Thursday each month at Community Ambulance Association, 1414 E. Butler Pike, Ambler PA 19002 Registration begins at 7:00 P.M. Applicants should contact Jim McCloskey NS3K at 215-275-2979 or jmccloskey@msn.com for the latest information.</p>					
		<p>Club Stations W3QV/R: The Jim Spencer Memorial Repeater System Ridge & Port Royal Avenues, Philadelphia, PA Trustee: W3RM 147.03 MHz + PL 91.5 Hz 444.80 MHz + PL 186.2 Hz Reach us on EchoLink through W3QV-R W3AA Trustee: WU3I W3EM: Field Day/special event station Trustee: N3QV</p>			
<p align="center">The Officers</p> <p>Pres: KB3IV Ed Masarsky 310 Saw Mill Ln. Horsham PA 19044 kb3iv@comcast.net Vice Pres: N3QV Eric D. Marano, PO BOX 233, Skippack PA 19474 n3qv@arrl.net Sec: KB3MIV Jen Miller 9427 Kirkwood Rd. 1st Fl. Phila 19114jencaz@verizon.net Treas: W3RM Richard A. Moll roger.mike@verizon.net Asst. Treas: N3MT Michael P. Taraborrelli michaelmt_1999@yahoo.com</p>					

The Prez Sez ...

Hello Phil-Mont,

I am having a difficult time writing this month's column because it has to be submitted before Field Day takes place. That doesn't leave me much to say, but hopefully some of the pictures will arrive before printing time.

We are able to announce the scholarship recipients every year on Saturday of FD weekend. I want to extend Phil-Mont's heartiest congratulations to all the winners of this year's three PMRC scholarships. I look forward to reading their biographies and learning their future plans for school, careers and Ham Radio.

Have you been tuning in on Tuesday evenings at 7:00PM to listen to and participate in the Digital Net? It has been attracting greater participation each week as more people are finding out that they don't have to have expensive add-on devices to get in the mode (pun intended). W3STW, Al, and K3EUI, Barry have really been raising the interest level to these programs which allow you to communicate over long distances even though your antenna is only a wet noodle.

I want to thank Ben, W2TCB, for his presentation at our June club meeting. His hands on demonstration of his Flex 5000 and Yaesu FT-DX 5000 radios was an eye opener to many of us who have never seen what the latest and greatest are capable of accomplishing. Also, thanks to Steve, WU3I, for supplying the antenna system which made it all work.

Remember, we do not have club or board meetings during the months of July and August, but the weekly nets and Blurbs never take a vacation. Looking forward to hearing you on the bands this summer.

de Ed, KB3IV

***Phil-Mont
Birthdays & Tidbytes***

July Birthdays

- 02 Theodore Katz - N3OWM
Alice Popovic (XYL W3AOK)
- 10 Natalie Gordon - WB3KOH
James Perry - KJ3P
- 12 Grace Smith (XYL K3GBA)
- 14 Larry Clifford - W3UY
- 23 Arthur Weiner - WX3PHI
- 25 Virginia Haring - W3IIN
- 26 Mai-Lin Simmons - (XYL N3BKR)
- 27 Robert Hill - KB3HNB
- 29 James Larkin - KA2FFP
- 31 Stephen Hoch - WU3I

Membership Stats

At press time PMRC had:
87 Full Paid Members
4 Youth Members
1 Honorary Member

July 2011



*This month's Thursday evening VE session
is on the 28th*

As always, many thanks to our VE team!

From the Secretary

Minutes of the Board of Directors, June 8, 2011

At 1930 hours an abbreviated BoD meeting was held just prior to the General meeting. Attending the meeting were Bill, W3AOK; Rick, ND3B; Bob, KB3ERL; Steve, WU3I; Ed, KB3IV; Fred, WA3KIO; Eric, N3QV and Al, W3STW. The Field Day meals times, menus and a list of attendees were defined. Their member applications having been approved by the BoD, Mike, N3TOX and Brandon, KB3VYD were voted in as members of the Club. (See page 5 of the June '11 Blurb.) Ed discussed some of the details regarding a club picture of current members holding their license plates bearing their callsign (or a reasonable facsimile thereof, furnished by Bill, W3AOK) at the June '11 Field Day site. The meeting adjourned at 1940 hours.

Minutes of the General Meeting, June 8, 2011

Ed, KB3IV, called the meeting to order. 32 people were present.

Plans for Field Day were being discussed. WU3I reviewed the lunch and meals for the weekend and also the band schedules. KC2PMW reviewed the logging program and the use of the flash drives being held in a central location to the two sites. Don't forget to safely remove the hardware. There are plans for a photo on Field Day with everyone holding their vanity plates. That photo will be taken on Saturday. There is no set time at this point. NS3K reviewed the VE session dates and times. KB3IV reviewed and welcomed new members. KB3IV then introduced the program

for the evening by Ben, W2TCB. He gave a demonstration of the Flex 5000 and the Yaesu FT5000.

KB3IV ended the meeting at 2130.

de Jen, KB3MIV with the help of Al, W3STW.

Some preliminary photos of PMRC FD 2011

More on page 7



And that about sums it up, folks



Inquirer columnist Monica Yant Kinney and daughter Jane at the GOTA station where Jane had her first QSO with Andrew coaching. Well done Jane!

Many thanks to Monica Yant Kinney - and Jane! - for spending part of your weekend learning about what we do. Hope you enjoyed it!

Radio Stores ... 'N' More

by Bob Thomas, W3NE

REMEMBERING SHALLCROSS – PART 2

Interesting projects and some contention

A new high-voltage, high-current rotary switch was in development at Shallcross about the time I was completing my first minor job assignments at the company. The next phase in the switch development program would be a life test where sample switches would be continuously rotated through each position while switching a high voltage to various load resistors. A power supply capable of providing 2000 volts at 800 ma. dc was required to stress switch contacts to their maximum rating during the life test.

Lucky me: I was to work with a Technician to design and build two of the power supplies. The Tech was John Perchalski, W3DLR who knew what was what. He was an avid 40 meter CW op (the entire 40M band was CW-only in those days!) who arrived every morning with tales of DX exploits the previous night. For us the project was like two kids in a candy shop, deciding on the schematic, selecting components, and laying-out the chassis and front panel. Each supply was built in a roll-around dolly with a luscious black Bakelite panel. Cutouts in the panel revealed the dials of four Simpson 4" rectangular meters for monitoring line voltage, rectifier tube filament voltage, dc output voltage, and output current. Output voltage was controlled by a 1 kW Variac in the primary of a UTC Commercial Grade plate transformer. A pair of 872 mercury vapor rectifiers, with filament voltage adjusted by a small Variac, were protected by a time delay relay in the HV transformer primary. A Millen HV so-called "safety" connector was used for HV dc output. Wow! This was great stuff and we both had a ball making them. Not only that, there was a later requirement for two more smaller supplies and I got to design and build them by myself.

One afternoon two visitors took a big instrument into the Chief Engineer's office. A few minutes

later C.E. Fred Mitchell and the men brought the instrument out and put it on a lab table so we could all look it over. It was strange thing, something like an oscilloscope except the CRT was in the upper left corner rather than the center of the front panel where it should be. Even stranger, the horizontal sweep was calibrated in *time*, not frequency like scopes were supposed to be. The visitors explained their new product, but it was far more advanced than anything Shallcross needed, so they departed. It wasn't until a few years later I realized I had seen a Tektronix 511, the first of what would become *the standard* oscilloscopes of the World.

Shallcross manufactured a full line of fixed and variable audio attenuators for the broadcasting and recording industries. Variable attenuators act like a conventional "volume control" potentiometer. However, rather than a simple continuous resistance tapped by a sliding contact, a variable attenuator is a multi-pole switch of forty or more small contacts with a precision attenuator of 1 dB or less connected between adjacent pairs of contacts. Attenuation changes in small increments as the control shaft is turned, producing a smooth, noiseless change of signal level in the accurately defined steps required for audio production..

The original attenuator factory test fixture was outdated and becoming unreliable so Charlie Fritz, engineer in charge of attenuators, designed a new circuit to simplify testing and improve product throughput. Charlie's schematic was turned over to me for design of a new test fixture. After making a control panel layout, I ordered new impedance matching transformers, telephone-type key switches, reference attenuators and mechanical parts for the new test set. A Tech wired up the unit while I wrote a new test procedure to go along with it. I went in on a Sunday to avoid interrupting production with installation of our new test station. I checked it out to make sure it was working properly and taped a note right across the VU meter to let the test foreman know the fixture was new and he should follow the attached revised test procedure.

Monday morning I went right to the test room to see how things were going. The brand new test set was

partially disassembled and Pappy Shallcross was getting an earful from a hysterical foreman about the disaster caused by the smartass engineers and their new test system. When I asked if he had followed the new procedure as noted in the prominent sign, the foreman boasted he didn't need to follow it because he always did it "his way" and saw no reason to change. Instead he had taken a soldering iron to the new test circuit and butchered it without knowing what he was doing. When everything was finally restored to its original design configuration and the new procedure followed properly, attenuator tests were completed faster and more accurately than ever before. Later that day when Pappy saw me he said, "Things got pretty hot this morning, didn't they?" I replied, yes they had, and he said, "You did good, keep it up." He made my day!

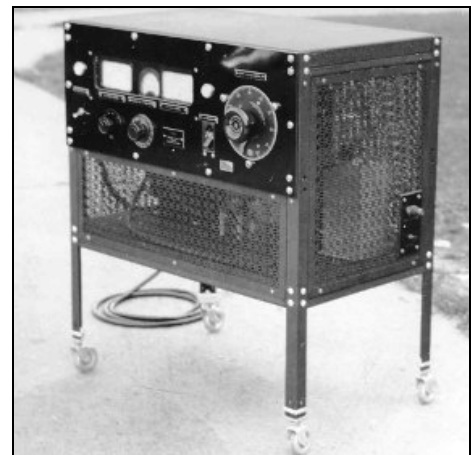
Pappy had tight hold on operation of his company and when things didn't go his way, everybody knew it. Someone would duck into the Lab to warn, "He's on the warpath!" If you listened carefully, you could hear muffled shouts emanating from the resistor production room. Then there would be a *blam* when he slammed the door going into the machine shop, which was next door to us. Now the shouting was louder and partly understandable. A few minutes of that and a *kablam!* as Pappy blustered from the shop, through the Lab right into Fred Mitchell's office with another bang as that door slammed shut. After Fred got chewed-out Pappy emerged glowering, and stamped out of the Lab to the seclusion of his own office. That cleared the air and it was all done without resorting to a single memo or, as we currently suffer, a flurry of e-mails. As far as I know, Pappy never reprimanded an ordinary employee; he held his managers responsible for running their operation, but always maintained good relations with the troops.

Good employee relations were important, but they didn't put food on the table, so shortly after I returned to Drexel for the last term before graduation in 1950, the employees voted to form a union. The man who founded the company and always ran it his way could not swallow that. John

Shallcross closed his venerable company in Collingdale and moved it to North Carolina to begin

anew. Times had changed though, and many of the company's bread-and-butter products no longer had a place in modern electronics. After some corporate juggling the company became part of IRC-Shallcross, a combination of two old Philadelphia resistor manufacturers. Separately in 1967, Pappy's son John Jr. founded *Shallco* which continues to make power switches and, in an ironic twist, audio attenuators to the designs of former arch competitor, Daven!

And in a coincidence that could only occur in Phil-Mont, Al Tribble, W3STW, just told me he immediately noticed the street address of the old Shallcross plant mentioned in Part-1. It seems that years later, Al worked in the very same building as I had while he was employed by GE during the mid-'sixties in setting up manufacture of innovative extremely high power diodes.



Shallcross power supply

Some FD photos



Anyone hungry?



Home sweet shack for the Simons



A pack of rogue hams attack the goodies



Fred, Penney, Audrey and Michaela get ready



Carmen and Antonio, one of the infamous 3 Gumbas



Chef Steve, WU3I, wearing his *manly* Rooster apron in the kitchen

For Sale

Optoelectronics FC-50 frequency counter,
ARRL handbooks 1933 - onward
Kreco 10 meter coaxial vertical antenna,
Antique headphones,
Multimeters,
and old technical books.

Contact Tom Bohlander WA3KLR

Contact Tom Bohlander WA3KLR, 215-536-1331

Please feel free to forward to other clubs of which you are a member

July at PMRC ...***There are no meetings this month***

- 1 Fri – Canada Day***
- 3 Sun – K3XS NCS***
- 4 Mon – Happy Independence Day***
- 10 Sun – W3MHP NCS***
- 13 Wed – Embrace your Geekiness Day***
- 17 Sun – KB3IV NCS***
- 24 Sun – KB3SJS NCS***
- 28 Thurs – VE Test Session***
- 31 Sun – N3QV NCS***

And don't forget the **ARES** net every Sunday night at 2100L and the new **Digital Net** Tuesdays at 1900L, both on W3QV/R

Check out this rope for your antenna project –

3/32" Braided Olive Drab - Dacron / Polyester cord

This is a high quality braided polyester cord with a breaking strength of 210 pounds. Proudly Made in the U.S.A.!

This is a gorgeous solid braid perfect for dipole antennas. Very low stretch and strong. Will withstand the weather & sun for 7 to 10 years.

***PRICE \$10.00 PER 100 FEET
SOLD IN 100 FOOT LOTS
CONTACT STEVE WU3I AT
WU3I@ARRL.NET***

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